

## **Remarks**

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action dated August 18, 2004, regarding the above-referenced patent application. The application is currently under a restriction requirement, wherein claims 31-52 are currently pending.

In the Office Action the Examiner asserted that the application contains claims directed to patentably distinct species, wherein Figures 22a-22c are directed to Species I, Figures 23a-23e are directed to Species II, and Figures 24a-24c are directed to Species III. An election to a single species for prosecution was requested by the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully traverse this restriction requirement. A telephone interview with the Examiner was conducted on September 15, 2004. During the conversation, the Examiner acknowledged that additional Figures in the specification may be read on the claimed invention. For example, Figures 14A-14C appear to read on claims 31-52. Acknowledgement of this observation is duly requested.

Adhering to the requirement of 37 CFR § 1.143 that a complete reply requires an election, Applicants hereby make a provisional election to Species III of Figures 24a-24c corresponding to claims 31-52. However, in order to preserve the right of petition under 37 CFR § 1.144, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 31-52 at least read on Figures 14A-14C.

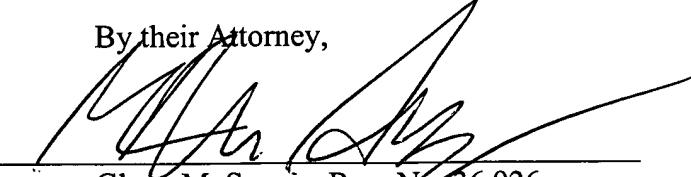
Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims, namely claims 31-52, are in condition for allowance and issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Attorney,

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